

U.S. Welcomes Actions by Panama and Liberia in Cuban Trade

Following are two Department statements read to news correspondents on October 20 by Lincoln White, Director of the Office of News, concerning actions taken by the Governments of Panama and Liberia with respect to trade with Cuba.

STATEMENT ON PANAMA

The action of Panama [October 19] in restricting Panamanian ships calling at Cuba is very gratifying to the United States Government. The Government of Panama obviously acted in the light of its own interest and as it interprets recent events in Cuba. Its action is, however, also tangible evidence of the further cooperation by the Government of Panama with all free nations of the Western Hemisphere. The new action by Panama recalls that when the foreign ministers of the American Republics held their recent informal meeting¹ they called on the American Republics to reconsider, in the light of the new developments taking place in Cuba, the use of any ships of the American Republics in the Cuban trade. The informal meeting of the foreign ministers also called upon all other independent countries to review their policies with regard to the use of their ships in the Cuban trade.

STATEMENT ON LIBERIA

On October 10, 1962, the Liberian shipping commissioner in New York issued an order requiring written prior approval by the Commissioner of any voyage by a Liberian-flag vessel to Cuba. Two days later, on October 12, the Liberian Ambassador at Washington delivered a note² to the Department stating that, in view of the objection of the United States Government to the carrying of strategic materials to Cuba and in the interest of cooperating with the United States Government, the Liberian Government had

instructed all Liberian shipping commissioners that section 140 of the Liberian maritime regulations should be applicable to Cuba.³

¹ The text of a communiqué, see *Department of Oct. 22, 1962*, p. 598.

² Not printed here.